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COUNTRY Cyprus

SUBJECT Municipal Election Results/Translation of Union
Propaganda Leaflet in Mining Area

DATE 17 June 53

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"Although all the results of the municipal elections are not yet known, the contests in the principal towns have been determined. Generally speaking, the Communists displayed more strength than the average Cypriot believed likely, although in view of the divisions in the ranks of the Nationalists the result should not have surprised anyone. Limassol, Larnaca and Famagusta went Left; Nicosia and Kyrenia stayed Right; and Morphou swung into the Right column.

"At Lefka the Mayor will not be chosen until next week [first week of June 1953]. Meanwhile, the issue is very much in doubt, with Fadil Bey having no more than a 50:50 chance at the moment, if he has that. There were two factions in Lefka, one led by the incumbent, Fadil Bey, and his friends; the other by Dr Rifat, a nominee who has been defeated in two previous elections. Rifat again failed to be elected but three of his supporters were successful as Councilmen. Fadil Bey and three supporters were elected to the Council. The Greek population elected two members, both Left Wingers, anti-Fadil, anti-government, and anti-C M C (one is a dismissed employee from the strike). The Mayor is elected by the Council so the basic count at the moment is: Four for Fadil, three for Ali Bey (Rifat's protege), and the two Greeks holding the balance of power. Fadil is, of course, trying to make a deal with the other Turks and if that should be successful he would return as Mayor with Ali Bey as Deputy. The Greeks aren't tipping their hands and it isn't clear whether they'll sell out, split their support, or oppose Fadil. In any case, Fadil will not get their support without a lucrative offer.

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"I don't know about the other elections in Cyprus but at Lefka the corruption and bribery were so unabashedly in evidence that it would not have been surprising if Vote Brokers had established themselves near the polling booth and openly quoted the current rates. Those fluctuated during the day, the rate being small in the morning but rising sharply around noon when Fadil's count showed him leading by a hundred ballots. The best prices were, I believe, offered just before closing time. In some cases the Middle Eastern double-cross was used when a bribe was accepted but a contrary vote was cast. Rifat is said to be practically bankrupt from his election attempt. It is not clear just how a mayor gets back his 'investment' but there must be cuts on the city's contracts.

"The results of the elections in the other towns are given below.

"Nicosia. Total Voters: 6,647. Votes Cast: 5,720 (86%)

"The Nationalists headed by the present Mayor, Dr Th Dervis, won all eight seats for Greeks in the Council, having polled an average of 71% of the votes cast.

"The Leftists failed to find among the Rightists any influential citizens who would fight Dr Dervis' group with even their unofficial support and without any strings attached to it. Their group was headed by the AKEL General Secretary, Eusebios Papaioannou, and was composed entirely of Leftists. They polled an average of 28% of the votes cast, the majority being 2,600 votes as against 1,300 in the 1949 election.

"Limassol. Total Voters: 5,852. Votes Cast: 5,493 (94%)

"The Rightist Group was headed by Ercalis Michaelides, a wealthy man who in 1931 was a member of the Legislative Council. He was returned together with his candidate Deputy-Mayor, Dr Emilius Frangos. The Rightists polled 50% of the votes as against 52% which went to the Leftist Group (who won five seats in the Council), headed by AKEL leader Costas Partasides who held the office of Mayor of Limassol from 1946-1949 and was again returned in the 1949 elections with a larger majority than this year. He was deposed in 1950 when he had firmly objected to the re-installation of 'Sir Richmond Palmer Street' nameplate which he had pulled down.

"Larnaca. Total Voters: 3,007. Votes Cast: 2,830 (94%)

"This election was also won by the Leftists, headed by the District Secretary of the Pancyprian Labor Federation, George Christodoulides, now Municipal Councillor. The Leftists polled an average of 54% of the votes cast and the Rightists 46%, roughly the same proportion as in the previous election in which the winning group included the present Mayor, Mr I Santamas, who broke away from the left-wing movement some three years ago. Dr Hannibal Francis, now Deputy-Mayor, and a left-wing sympathizer, who stood as independent, was returned with 25 votes more than the next candidate.

"Right-wing newspapers attribute the defeat of the Rightists in Larnaca to the way the pre-election moves were carried on by the Nationalists and to the abstentions from voting on the part of the Nationalist side.

"Panagusta. Total Voters: 4,236. Votes Cast: 4,016 (95%)

"The elections here were contested by three different groups:

"Rightists, who polled 35% of the votes cast; Leftists, who polled 52% of the votes cast; and the present Mayor's (Admantos) Group, who polled 31% of the votes cast.

"The present Mayor, who bolted from the AKEL last year when the party was purged from such leading members as Servas and Nousis, has apparently split the Nationalists rather than the Leftists, from whom, seemingly, he received very few votes

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in the recent elections. As Mayor from 1943 he gained some popularity in the town, and there were quite a few Nationalists who supported his candidacy as head of the Nationalist Group after he pledged support of the Ethnarchy, which was shortly before the elections when he went to the Archbishopric and saw the Archbishop. The Mayor-elect of Famagusta, Mr Pouyiouros, is quite young, a promising advocate, and is not a member of AKEL.

"Kyrenia. Total Voters: 526. Votes Cast: 449 (85%)

"The Nationalist Group of seven candidates easily won the election in which this time they were only opposed by two independent Leftists who polled slightly over 25% of the votes cast. The successful group was again headed by Mr Charilas Demetriades, Mayor for 25 years now, who has never lost an election.

"Paphos

"The Leftists here who took part either alone or in mixed groups in the previous three elections, have not this time contested. Their strength is estimated at around 20% and have apparently mostly voted this time for the group of Dr Iacovides which polled almost 70% of the 988 votes cast out of the total 1,053. Like the defeated present Mayor, Mr Chr Yalatoopoulos, the new Mayor is a member of the Ethnarchic Council, and all their candidates (five from each side) are Rightists.

"Morphou. The Rightists in Morphou headed by Dr P Iacovides won five of the seats in the Council while the other group of Dr P Nicolopoulos, Mayor since 1943, which had the official support of the Leftists and included two leftist candidates, won the remaining three seats. The two sides polled an average of 53% and 52% respectively of the 1,293 votes cast.

"It will be noticed that in most cases the balloting percentages total more than 100%. Under the present voting system, a voter may cast for both parties; thus, the amounts over 100% indicate the percentage of this double vote.

Below is a translation of a leaflet distributed in the Cyprus Mining Area on 20 May 53.

"Miners: Join the Struggle to Safeguard Trade Union Rights and Collective Negotiations

"Fellow-Miners:

"Your trade unions and the Miners Central Bureau of the Pancyprian Labour Federation are communicating with you regarding the very serious problem with which you are faced, the problem of trade union rights. In this leaflet we are placing before you some of the findings of the 8th Pancyprian Trade Union Congress which was held at Limassol on 8 Apr 53 when certain resolutions were passed concerning this serious matter.

"The Mining Companies are the main enemy of trade union rights in Cyprus.

"After listening to the report of the General Secretary of the Pancyprian Labour Federation, A Ziartides, the congress concluded that the mining companies are the greatest enemy of trade union rights in Cyprus.

'...The main enemy of trade union rights in Cyprus (it was emphasized at the congress), are the mining companies and the big enterprises. That is the head of the monster which has to be smashed...'

"The managers and senior officials of the Mining Companies may attempt to dispute the rightfulness of this conclusion. They may claim that the mining companies

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respect their workmen's right of association and that they only fight the old, the communist trade unions as they call them.

"In discussing this point the Pancyprian Congress resolved that

'...all the workmen can see that behind the anti-labour actions of Manglis, Hendricks and Kukulis and the other directors of the mining companies is the camouflaged intention of the capitalists to strike at the gains already won by labour. They only care about securing the maximum possible profits out of labour toil. Behind this anti-labour campaign of the mining companies is the harsh, pitiless law of the capitalist system which permits capitalists to be concerned only with the realization of the highest possible profits...

'...That this is the fact, was shown from the capitalistic attitude towards the new trade unions. Hendricks attacked and dissolved the new trade union of Pissas who helped him tremendously to find outside labourers to go to work during the big miners' strike in 1948. The new trade unions of Ayata and Sma were similarly attacked by Manglis and were broken up...

'...Is this not evidence that the mining companies strike at their workmen's trade unions indiscriminately with the object of holding the workmen unorganised, to exploit them for the sake of bigger and bigger profits?...

"The miners have lost very much from the violation of trade union rights.

"In discussing this question the congress reached the conclusion that the interests of the miners have been seriously affected from the violation of trade union rights. The following questions were asked at the congress:

'...What has happened and the miners have not yet won the 44-hour week? Why are miners' wages lower than those of other workmen employed on the surface on much easier jobs? Why do most of the miners not enjoy leave with full pay, nor any pay in respect of public holidays?...

"Who of you, fellow-workmen, can dispute the accuracy of the above statements? In recent years the miners' trade unions were not able to pursue better working conditions for the miners. They were not able to do it because they were weak. They were rendered weak by the anti-labour policies of the mining companies.

"The mobilisation of the working class is necessary for the safeguarding of trade union rights.

"Under the guidance of the Pancyprian Labour Federation, the Cyprus working class has intensified its mobilisations demanding of the Government to pass laws for the protection of labour trade unions and trade union rights.

"Over 13,000 workmen signed and sent the 'protest form' to the Commissioner of Labour. The Pancyprian Labour Federation placed the matter before the Labour Advisory Board on which the trade unions, the employers and the government are represented. The P L F succeeded in a resolution being passed by the board in February 1953 making the suggestion to the Government to enact protective legislation for trade union rights in Cyprus. The P L F has acquainted several organisations abroad with the situation from which replies expressing their solidarity with our aim have been received.

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